

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method by which a managing computer manages applications
residing on a managed computer, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) forwarding an agent from the managing computer to the managed
computer; and,
 - (b) running the agent on the managed computer, the agent
performing the following substeps:
 - (b.1) maintaining specified applications residing on the
managed computer, and
 - (b.2) performing requests made by the managing computer.
2. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
performs the following substep:
- (b.3) detecting lost network connections.
3. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
performs the following substep:
- (b.3) monitoring network connection speed between the managed
computer and the managing computer to determine a best time to transfer
data from the managing computer to the managed computer.
4. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
performs the following substep:

Sub 1
a23
4 (b.3) monitoring integrity of specified applications within the
managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed.

1 5. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substep:

3 (b.3) monitoring communications from the managed computer to
4 determine when the managed computer desires the agent to take a
5 requested action.

1 6. A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3) wherein the
2 requested action is to uninstall an application.

1 7. A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3) wherein the
2 requested action is to stop an application.

1 8. A method as in claim 5 wherein in substep (b.3) wherein the
2 requested action is to upgrade an application.

Sub 1
Sat
1 9. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
2 performs the following substeps:

3 (b.3) monitoring network connection speed between the managed
4 computer and the managing computer; and,

5 (b.4) stopping all network applications on the managed computer
6 when the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

10. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the agent additionally
 2 performs the following substeps:

3 (b.3) downloading a specified application from the managing
 4 computer to the managed computer; and,

5 (b.4) installing the specified application.

11. An agent running on a managed computer managed by a
 2 managing computer, the agent comprising:

3 an integrity sensor that monitors integrity of specified applications
 4 within the managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed;

5 an action sensor that monitors communications from the managed
 6 computer to determine when the managed computer desires the agent to
 7 take a requested action; and,

8 a main engine that maintains the specified applications and performs
 9 the requested action.

12. An agent as in claim 11 additionally comprising:

2 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
 3 between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a
 4 best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed
 5 computer.

13. An agent as in claim 11 wherein the requested action is to
 2 uninstall an application.

1 14. An agent as in claim 11 wherein the requested action is to stop an
2 application.

1 15. An agent as in claim 11 wherein the requested action is to
2 upgrade an application.

1 16. An agent as in claim 10 additionally comprising:
2 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
3 between the managed computer and the managing computer, wherein the
4 main engine stops all network applications on the managed computer when
5 the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

1 17. Storage media that store programming code which when run
2 implements an agent running on a managed computer managed by a
3 managing computer, the agent comprising:
4 an integrity sensor that monitors integrity of specified applications
5 within the managed computer to ascertain when repair is needed;
6 an action sensor that monitors communications from the managed
7 computer to determine when the managed computer desires the agent to
8 take a requested action; and,
9 a main engine that maintains the specified applications and performs
10 the requested action.

1 18. Storage media as in claim 17 wherein the agent additionally
2 comprises:

3 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
4 between the managed computer and the managing computer to determine a
5 best time to transfer data from the managing computer to the managed
6 computer.

1 19. Storage media as in claim 17 wherein the requested action is on of
2 the following:

3 an instruction to uninstall an application;
4 an instruction to stop an application; and,
5 an instruction to upgrade an application.

1 20. Storage media as in claim 17 wherein the agent additionally
2 comprises:

3 a network speed sensor that monitors network connection speed
4 between the managed computer and the managing computer, wherein the
5 main engine stops all network applications on the managed computer when
6 the network connection speed is below a predetermined threshold.

add
are